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ever, be many other habits, which do not materially affect the general pictorial appearance of the writing, and are quite involuntary and unconscious. They cannot therefore be modified immediately at will. They can be changed only gradually, through the formation of new habits which displace the former ones.

No two samples of genuine free-hand writing are ever exactly facsimile of each other in all respects. They may appear as much alike on casual inspection, as any two peas grown in the same pod, but, like the peas, they can always be differentiated from each other on careful examination. The relative value of points of similarity or dissimilarity differ very greatly. All writing in order to be readable, must conform in many respects to the commonly accepted conventional type.

If in a questioned writing there is a persistent reappearance of very many of the habits of the standards, especially if they are of the involuntary automatic variety, which do not materially affect the general pictorial appearance, or is a singular habit of this standard, if such there be, and if also these are supplemented by a like persistent absence of other habits, very common to writers in general, or which are incongruous with those of the standards, then the culminative evidence of such a series of coincidences will fully warrant the opinion that they, taken together, cannot be due to any accidental chance, but, beyond any reasonable doubt, must be due only to the one cause of having had the same origin, that is of having been written by one and the same hand.

DR. BENNETT F. DAVENPORT, *Medico-legal Expert, Boston, Mass.*

Study of Delinquent Boys Released from Institutions.—The Seattle Juvenile Court Report for the year 1916 contains a study of the after-career of 408 delinquent boys who were committed from the King County Juvenile Court to the Boys' Parental School and the State Training School during the five-year period 1911-1915. The study was made under the direction of Professor Walter G. Beach, Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington. The following table and paragraphs are quoted from the report:

"Passing immediately to the statistical facts we find that 408 boys were committed by the King County Juvenile Court during the five-year period from January 1, 1911, to December 31, 1915, to correctional schools, as follows: Three hundred forty-six, or 84.8 per cent, were sent to the Parental School and sixty-two, or 15.2 per cent, to the State Training School.

"The present whereabouts and occupations of these boys will be noted first without reference to the segregation by institutions.

144, or 35.3%, are now at work.

56, or 13.7%, are now attending public school.

67, or 16.5%, are known to have moved to other towns, states or counties.

64, or 15.7%, have escaped from schools, or disappeared following parole, and there is no official knowledge of their whereabouts.

19, or 04.7%, are known to be at liberty and in frequent trouble.

11, or 02.7%, are free and simply loafing.

4, or 00.9%, are in the army or navy.

4, or 00.9%, are dead.

24, or 05.9%, are now in the Parental School.

6, or 01.5%, are now in the State Reformatory.

9, or 02.2%, are now in the State Institution for Feeble-Minded."

* * * * *

"A great and obvious need of these institutions is a far more complete and definite parole system. For the boys who have left an earlier for a later house of correction, and for the large number who have disappeared, much of their trouble, statistics from another study show, could have been prevented had the boys been properly paroled; that is, had they been placed in carefully searched out private homes. But for this great need there is practically no provision made.

"The Parental School should, perhaps, not serve in the capacity of a placing agency, since it has jurisdiction only during the school age, and passing that age its wards may, if desirable, be remanded to the court for further disposition. The State Training School, on the other hand, has jurisdiction until the child is twenty-one years of age. For the entire number of boys at the State Training School (140-200) only one parole officer is provided, and to his ordinary duties he has to add that of bringing in to the school all the boys committed to it by the different county courts. On the face of it his work becomes impossible. Even for the State Reformatory, with its 300 to 400 men, only one field officer is maintained in the parole department.

"Surely the state sins when it turns a homeless and jobless boy out of an institution with no place to go often but to a broken home, and nothing to do often but to loaf. A safe conclusion is that the problem of juvenile delinquency will never be solved but by means of an institution. Protective social agencies must extend themselves into the field, and must give help to the boy before delinquency ever comes, or after delinquency has received correction. That the institutions of this country and of this state seem eager and willing to do. That service they should be empowered by the state to render."

ALAN A. PHILLIPS, *Seattle*.

A Study of the After-Career of 408 Delinquent Boys Who Were Committed from the King County (Washington) Juvenile Court to the Boys' Parental School and the State Training School During the Five-Year Period 1911-1915.—Under the direction of Prof. Walter G. Beach, Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington, and at the request of Dr. Lilburn Merrill, of the juvenile court, a study was carried on over several months of last year, of all delinquent boys committed from the King County Juvenile Court to the Seattle Parental School and the State Training School through the five-year period of time opening January 1, 1911, and closing December 31, 1915.

The records of the boys in every instance have been followed up from the time they first came into court, through their commitment and subsequent parole or release, if either of those events had yet transpired to the end of the year 1916. This work has been accomplished through consultation of the records of the Juvenile Court, School Attendance Department, Parental School, State Training School and State Reformatory, all of which institutions were visited by the writer and the officials interviewed regarding their knowledge of the individual boys.

Passing immediately to the statistical facts we find that 408 boys were com-